REMARKS

Claims 19-34 are pending. Claims 19, 22 and 30 have been amended. Claim 21 has been canceled. New claims 35 and 36 have been added. Applicant submits that the claim amendments and new claims are fully supported by the original specification. No new matter has been added.

The drawings and disclosure stand objected to on various grounds, all relating to reference signs that were incorrectly identified in the drawings or in the specification. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments to the drawings and specification fully address the objections, bringing the drawings and specification into mutual conformance. No new matter has been added.

Claims 19, 20, 23-26, 28-31, 33 and 34 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,498,590 (Dietz). Applicants disagree.

Applicants' independent claim 19 now recites a touch sensor that includes, "a touch sensor switch electrically connected to the touch sensor, a first user contact point separate from the touch sensor, ... a first user contact point switch electrically connected to the first user contact point, and a power source electrically connected to the touch sensor switch and the first user contact point switch....." Dietz does not teach or disclose a touch sensor switch electrically connected to the touch sensor, a user contact point switch electrically connected to a user contact point, and a power source electrically connected to the touch sensor switch and the user contact point switch. This is confirmed in the present Office Action in section 20 on page 8.

Applicants' independent claim 30 now recites a method of determining information related to a touch on a touch sensor including, "detecting the first signal transferred to the touch sensor through a touch on the touch sensor based on the states of the touch sensor switch and the first contact switch...," where the touch sensor is associated with the touch sensor switch and the first contact switch is associated with a first contact point that is driven with the first signal. Dietz does not teach or disclose a touch sensor and contact point that are associated with switches, the states of the switches being used to determine whether the signal driving the contact point is transferred to the touch sensor by the touch to determine information related to the touch.

Applicants' new claim 36 recites a system that includes a touch sensor contained within a housing and a user contact point separate from the touch sensor contained within the same

housing, where a touch to the touch sensor transfers a signal from the user contact point to the touch sensor to determine information related to the touch. Dietz does not teach or disclose that the user contact point and the touch sensor are or can be mounted in the same housing. This is confirmed in the present Office Action in section 21 on pages 9 and 10.

For these reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(e) rejections over Dietz.

Claims 21, 22, 27 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dietz in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,815,141 (Phares). Applicants disagree. Applicants note that, by way of the present amendment, the elements of claim 21 have been incorporated into claim 19.

Phares discloses a resistive touch screen that provides discrimination between objects touch the surface thereof by subdividing at least one of the two opposing conductive sheets into separated portions. Further, a switch can be used to deactivate any selected portion so that an object contacting such portion provides no signal.

A resistive touch screen, as described in Phares, works by disposing two conductive films in a facing relationship so that in the absence of a touch, the two conductive films are electrically isolated. Under the force of a touch, the two films are brought into local electrical contact that generates a signal that can be used to determine the location of the touch. Phares discloses subdividing at least one of the two conductive films into separated portions. However, each portion is still part of the same overall touch screen. In contrast, Applicants' claims all recite that the user contact point is separate from the touch sensor, not an integral part of it. In addition, neither portion of the touch screen of Phares is driven with a signal that is transferred to the other due to a touch, as is required by Applicants' claims.

Phares does not disclose a user contact point separate from the touch sensor, nor does Phares disclose driving a user contact point with a signal and transferring that signal through a touch on the touch sensor to determine information related to the touch. There is nothing in Phares to cure the deficiencies of the Dietz reference. Nor does Phares provide motivation to modify the system disclosed by Dietz, particularly because there is nothing in Phares to teach or suggest the use of a user contact point separate from the touch sensor, the user contact point being driven with a signal that is transferred to the touch sensor via touches to the touch sensor.

One of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine Phares with Dietz to make the claimed invention. Even so, the switch as disclosed by Phares is for the purpose of deactivating a selected portion of a resistive touch sensor, and is not taught for the function disclosed and claimed by Applicants. As such, the proposed combination would not result in the claimed invention.

For these reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 103(a) rejections over Dietz in view of Phares.

Examination and consideration of the application as amended is requested and allowance of claims 19, 20, and 22-36, as amended, at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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